



COLORADO BUILDING GREEN

DECEMBER 2003 / JANUARY 2004

City of Boulder: The Tale of One Green City

by Elizabeth Vasatka, vasatkae@ci.boulder.co.us

Residential construction is the single most consumptive land use type in urban and suburban settings. For many reasons inherent in the marketplace, the quality of new residential construction has come under question in recent years. Municipalities have become increasingly interested in improving the quality of new homes from an environmental, economic, and long-term fiscal sustainability standpoint. There are several groups' interests to balance. Policymakers, homebuyers and homebuilders want to see homes constructed that hold their value over a long time period; homeowners want to keep their utility costs down, and we all want to lessen the impact of development on our natural resources.

Currently, there are approximately thirty residential green building programs across the country. Yet only a few are mandated by a local government through building codes. The city of Boulder is one of those few programs that require green building measures as a condition of the building permit process.

Boulder has had some form of residential energy efficiency program in place since 1980. As building codes caught up with Boulder's energy program, an update and rename took effect in 1996 and the program was christened Green Points. Boulder went from addressing energy and water conservation to a full scale "green building" program.

Green Points addresses options in 10 green building categories, with 71 options within those categories. Unlike LEED™, the points per option are weighted, giving more points to measures having a bigger impact and/or price tag. A project's square footage dictates the number of green point options required, although the flexibility of the program allows the building permit applicant to choose which Green Points options are best suited for their project.

In 2001, the Green Points program was expanded to include remodels and additions of more than 500 square feet, increased point requirements, and no cap on the number of required points for larger homes.

Education and outreach to our homeowners and building professionals is critical to the city's program. Providing technical assistance through workshops and certification has increased awareness about energy and resource conservation practices in the building industry. Coincidentally, a challenge we face is to ensure the Green Points program can keep pace with the high level of expertise we have in our local building community.

Colorado Presenters at Greenbuild 2003

The above article by Elizabeth Vasatka was presented at Greenbuild this past November. Other Colorado presenters included Greg Franta, Tia Heneghan, David Johnston, Alexis Karolides, John Mlade, Timothy Moore, Victor Olgay, Auden Schendler and Lauren Yarmuth.

USGBC Debates Trade Association Membership

Information courtesy of www.usgbc.org

In the November newsletter, the USGBC informed members that the Board had appointed a task force, chaired by Mary Tucker, to evaluate various issues surrounding our longstanding policy of precluding membership to "501c6 trade associations." The USGBC also provided a special email address for members to provide input. Here is a recap of the overall task force process for those of you who missed updates provided during Greenbuild week in Pittsburgh:

The Board established the task force on July 31 in order to evaluate the full scope of issues and options for the Board's consideration. Issues extend beyond product manufacturer trade associations to a broad range of membership/association-related issues.

As part of its information gathering and research stage, the task force has conducted a series of focus group meetings with a broad range of trade associations, environmental and professional associations in the fall to solicit views. Nonmember environmental groups have also been consulted.

The task force outlined the process and objectives to all chapter leadership, posted an announcement about the effort in the November USGBC newsletter, and provided a special email address to solicit member views.

At the November 10 Board meeting, the USGBC Board of Directors unanimously recognized that this was a complex and multi-faceted issue, that an appropriate process had been established to address the issue including the opportunity for member comment, and that the Board would plan to address the issue in late January. Further, the Board agreed with Mary Tucker's recommendation to solicit membership comment on the task force's draft report to further inform the Board decision. This process was communicated to members on Chapters Day and Members Day on November 10 and 11.

To follow through on this process, the task force has scheduled a meeting on December 15 in Washington, D.C. to review and comment on the draft report. The report will provide a history of the issues, facts surrounding each issue, a list of possible options for decisions/actions, and pros and cons associated with each. It will then be made available to USGBC members and nonmember participants in the process for review and comment by about January 15. [Clarification: The report will be distributed to members sometime before December 31 with the anticipated deadline for comments by about January 15.] Those comments will be incorporated into a final report that will be given to the Board for their review and any action at the January 25/26th meeting. Any action taken by the Board will be reported to the members.

If you have any questions about the process, please direct them to memberviews@usgbc.org.



VISION

Promote responsibility for Colorado's environmental legacy.

MISSION

Advance and promote responsible planning, design, construction and operation of the built environment through education, improving industry guidelines, policy advocacy, and information and resource sharing.

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Join the USGBC Colorado Chapter!

The USGBC Colorado Chapter is participating in a pilot membership program to involve individuals (including students), companies not in the building industry, and local companies who wish to explore the organization without committing to a full national membership. Membership in the local chapter is now available at the following levels:

- **Chapter Member** - \$50 per year (available only to individuals from USGBC-member companies)
- **Provisional Chapter Member** - \$100 for 1st year, \$200 for 2nd year (2-year trial membership with local benefits for non-USGBC member companies)
- **Chapter Friend** - \$50 per year (donation from interested individual not associated with a building stakeholder company)
- **Chapter Student** - \$25 per year (must be enrolled in accredited degree program)
- **Chapter Partner** - For local companies that do not want national benefits (see website for dues schedule)

Benefit	USGBC Member	Chapter Member	Provisional Chapter Member	Chapter Friend	Student	Chapter Partner
Receive Discounts on Chapter Events	x	x	x	x	x	x
Receive Discounts on National Events	x	x				
Receive a Local Membership Certificate					x	
Listing in Chapter Membership Directory		x	x	x	x	x
Vote in National Elections	x	x				
Vote in Chapter Elections		x				
Serve on Chapter Committees		x	x	x	x	x
Serve on National Committees	x	x				
Serve as Chapter Committee Chair		x				
Serve on Chapter Board of Directors		x				
Access to Chapter Membership Directory		x	x	x	x	x
Access to Chapter Resources		x	x	x	x	x

To join in any category except Chapter Partner, visit the USGBC website at www.usgbc.org. Click on "Chapters," locate the Colorado Chapter listing, and click on "Join this Chapter." From there you will be guided through the registration process. To join as a Chapter Partner or if you have any other questions about the membership program, please contact Greg Borst at gborst@swinerton.com.

Welcome New Colorado Chapter Members!

- Victor Bush
- Rick Golden
- Michael Haughey
- Peter Hresko
- Conor Merrigan

Note

Membership statistics presented in this section reflect USGBC national members located in Colorado.

USGBC Colorado Membership by Year

Year	Annual	Cumulative
1997	2	2
1998	1	3
1999	5	8
2000	4	12
2001	22	34
2002	34	68
2003*	75	143

*As of November 30, 2003

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – NOVEMBER 2003

Firm / Organization	City
Kiewit Construction Company	Englewood
M-E Engineers, Inc.	Wheat Ridge
Engineered Constr. Systems, Inc.	Denver
Kenney and Associates	Loveland
Greenfield Architects	Denver
Beck	Broomfield

Colorado Building Green is the official newsletter of the U.S. Green Building Council – Colorado Chapter, and is published monthly. The newsletter is distributed electronically via e-mail. To add or remove your name from the mailing list, or to submit story ideas and other information for publication, please contact the editor

CHAPTER NEWS

Colorado Chapter Plants Trees for Fall Greening Conference Speakers

As a thank-you to our Fall Greening Conference speakers, the Colorado Chapter has planted trees on their behalf. The trees will be planted in an urban area within Colorado through Plant-It 2020, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to properly planting, maintaining and protecting as many indigenous trees as possible worldwide. In addition to replenishing cities and forests, Plant-It 2020 also periodically provides educational workshops on forestry issues to thousands of children. Founded by the late singer John Denver in 1992, their reforestation projects in many countries often directly help humanity by increasing crop production, fresh water availability and food.

Plant-It's "dollar-per-tree" program allows for every US dollar contributed to be directed towards the planting of an indigenous tree-seedling. They try to use older and larger tree-seedlings whenever possible as this increases the survival rate.

Their "urban reforestation" program is designed for corporate and larger individual contributors to sponsor a city reforestation event. Such events often generate tremendous publicity in regional TV and print media, as they may include active participation by dozens-to-hundreds of local schoolchildren, civic and community leaders, and the occasional Mayor and/or Senator. Trees planted in this program are larger trees generally ranging from 5' to 40' tall.

The organization has planted trees in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin, as well as internationally in Belize, Bolivia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Ecuador, El Salvador, England, Eritrea, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Vietnam, Thailand and Uganda.

For more information about Plant-It 2020, including a list of their completed projects, visit their website at www.plantit2020.org.

COLORADO LEED™ PROJECTS

CERTIFIED PROJECTS

BUILDING	CITY
Sundeck Restaurant (1.0 Bronze)	Aspen
North Boulder Recreation Center (2.0 Silver)	Boulder
CH2M Hill South Building (2.0 Certified)	Englewood

REGISTERED PROJECTS

BUILDING	CITY
Alfred A. Arraj Courthouse	Denver
Belmar 2M3	Lakewood
Boulder Community Hospital	Boulder
Byron G. Rogers U.S. Courthouse	Denver
CH2M Hill North Building	Englewood
CH2M Hill West Building	Englewood
Children's Hospital at Fitzsimons	Aurora
City of Fort Collins Vehicle Storage*	Fort Collins
Denver Place	Denver
Donovan Park Facility	Vail
Durango Discovery Museum	Durango
Eagle River Valley Academic Center	Edwards
Fossil Ridge High School	Fort Collins
Green Classrooms of Guggenheim Hall	Fort Collins
New Belgium Brewery	Fort Collins
NREL Science & Technology Facility	Golden
NREL Thermal Test Facility*	Golden
Pikes Peak Regional Development Center	Colorado Springs
Russell T. Tutt Science Center	Colorado Springs
Snowmass Golf Clubhouse	Aspen
State of CO Dept. of Labor Addition*	Denver
University of Denver College of Law	Denver
Wellington E. Webb Municipal Building	Denver

* New!

SPONSORSHIP

Your 100% volunteer staff has been working hard and long to see this goal of a local Colorado USGBC chapter. Your donation helps green building move from innovative idea to factual reality. Much more is needed to meet our goal. Support from our members and sponsors will enable us to expand current programming while developing additional funding (including grant) opportunities.

We have established levels of event sponsorship. Be seen! All levels from \$100 and up are recognized in our newsletter. Donations at all levels are needed at this time, including in-kind donations, silent auction and door prizes.

As an event sponsor you are entitled to recognition from the podium, table top displays and complementary event tickets. These vary by level, so please contact Carol Blaha by email at cblaha1219@aol.com for a copy of our current sponsorship guidelines and other information on how to sponsor a USGBC Colorado Chapter event or publication.

Thank you to these sponsors for in-kind donations during December!



GREEN NEWS

Winterize Your Home

by Corey Rhodes, crhodes@theballardgroup.com

With the rising costs of natural gas and the onset of winter, we thought that everyone could use some helpful tips to make their homes more energy efficient. There are many simple, effective methods to reduce the costs of winter heating and do your part to reduce pollution.

Insulating and venting your attic can help save 20-35 percent in heating costs. For insulation to work effectively, your attic should be properly vented to keep moisture from condensing on the insulation. Half of the attic vents should be located near the ridge and the other half should be located in the eaves. An insulation value of R-50 is recommended by Xcel Energy.

The most cost-effective measures to reduce your heating bill are caulking and weather stripping. Caulk around windows on the exterior, and caulk and seal openings in your crawl space. Worn weather stripping should be replaced on doors and the interior of windows. Installing a door sweep can prevent drafts at the bottom of your doors.

After minimizing the heat loss from your home, you should maximize the efficiency of your furnace. Changing your furnace filter monthly and having it professionally cleaned every year will help your furnace operate efficiently. Installing a programmable thermostat to set back your thermostat during sleeping and working hours will greatly reduce your heating bill.

For more information regarding reducing your home energy use, you can attend workshops that presented by the Colorado Energy Science Center. From December until February, workshops will be hosted at the National Renewable Energy Lab Visitors Center in Golden. These workshops will discuss home energy efficiency, solar heating systems, and solar electric systems. Visit the Colorado Energy Science Center website for more information at www.energyscience.org, or call 303-216-2026.

EVENTS UPDATE

See *Blue Vinyl* in January

The Colorado Chapter January Evening Program will feature a screening of *Blue Vinyl*, an award-winning documentary film by Judith Helfand and Dan Gold. Join us on January 12th for the film, followed by a discussion of the issues. As always, our monthly Evening Programs offer the chance to socialize, and refreshments are included in the price of admission.

Time: 5:30 PM until 8:30 PM

Cost: \$15 for USGBC Members, \$20 for non-members and \$10 for students

Place: REI Flagship Store
1416 Platte Street
Denver, Colorado

“Activist filmmaker Judith Helfand is not one to look the other way when a potential toxin gets too close to home. So when her parents affix vinyl siding to their suburban Long Island abode, she gets suspicious. Armed with a big blue slab from the home improvement project, Helfand marches straight to the centers of vinyl production to get the skinny on the seemingly harmless plastics used to make not only cheap, durable siding but also flooring, toys, credit cards, IV bags – you name it. Taking a personal, comedic approach, directors Helfand and Gold brilliantly link unlikely stories and characters across continents, race, and class to uncover the impact of vinyl manufacturing and disposal on the atmosphere, the food chain, and humans. You’ll never look at plastic the same way again.”

– Caroline Libresco, *Sundance Film Festival*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Below is a listing of green-building related events that may be of interest to our readers. If you know of other events that should be listed in this calendar, please contact Michael Hoffman at mhoffman@designworkshop.com.

ORGANIZATION	EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	WEBSITE / CONTACT
AIA / ASME	Wind Energy Symposium	Reno, NV	Jan. 5-8, 2004	www.nrel.gov/wind_meetings/
* USGBC Colorado Chapter	Evening Program	Denver, CO	Jan. 12, 2004	www.usgbc.org/chapters/colorado
National Renewable Energy Laboratory	Installing a Solar Heating System	Golden, CO	Jan. 15, 2004	www.energyscience.org
Intl. Congress on Renewable Energy	ICORE 2004	Bangalore, India	Jan. 21-23, 2004	www.icore2004.com
Solid Waste Assn. of North America	Waste Reduction, Recycling & Composting	San Diego, CA	Feb. 9-14, 2004	www.swana.org
* USGBC Colorado Chapter	Evening Program	Denver, CO	Feb. 10, 2004	www.usgbc.org/chapters/colorado
Biomimicry Guild	Biomimicry and Architecture	US Virgin Islands	Feb. 22-25, 2004	www.biomimicry.net
Associated Builders and Contractors	National Convention	Honolulu, Hawaii	Feb 25-29, 2004	www.abc.org
Residential Energy Services Network	2004 RESNET Conference	San Diego, CA	March 1-3, 2004	www.natresnet.org
USGBC Missouri Heartland Org. Group	Greening the Heartland Conference	Columbia, MO	March 10-12, 2004	www.mogreen.org
NESEA	Building Energy Conference	Boston, MA	March 10-13, 2004	www.nesea.org/buildings/be/
National Assn. of Home Builders	National Green Building Conference	Austin, TX	March 14-16, 2004	www.nahbrc.org
American Society for Healthcare Engr.	Health Facility Planning, Design & Const.	Tampa, FL	March 15-17, 2004	www.ashe.org
Greenprints	Conference and Tradeshow	Atlanta, GA	March 18-19, 2004	www.greenprints.org
Carolina Recycling Association	Annual Conference and Trade Show	Charlotte, NC	March 22-25, 2004	www.cra-recycle.org
* USGBC Colorado Chapter	Evening Program	Denver, CO	April 6, 2004	www.usgbc.org/chapters/colorado
TFM Magazine	Total Facility Management Show	Chicago, IL	April 21-23, 2004	www.tfmshow.com
* USGBC Colorado Chapter	Spring Event	Denver, CO	April 30, 2004	www.usgbc.org/chapters/colorado
* USGBC Colorado Chapter	Evening Program	Denver, CO	June 7, 2004	www.usgbc.org/chapters/colorado